Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 00666 291205Z ACTION AID-31

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UNCLAS MOGADISCIO 0666

PASS TO AID/W

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SREF, SO

SUBJ: SOMALI APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE TO DISPLACED PERSONS

REFS: A) STATE 65583; B) MOGADISCIO 0536

- 1. SPECIAL EMISSARY RICHARD MOOSE RECEIVED AN APPEAL FOR UNITED STATES' ASSISTANCE TO DISPLACED PERSONS FROM THE OGADEN IN A PRESENTATION MADE BY AHMED MOHAMUD FARAH ON MARCH 20. FARAH, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SOMALI SOCIALIST REVOLUTIONARY PARTY'S BUREAU OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS, PROMISED TO SEND MR. MOOSE A MEMORANDUM INCORPORATING THE APPEAL. THE EMBASSY RECEIVED THIS DOCUMENT ON MARCH 27 (POUCHING COPIES TO DEPT MARCH 29.) THE MEMORANDUM REPRESENTS TOTAL GOVERNMENT OF THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (GSDR) ESTIMATE OF BASIC SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS TO MEET NEEDS OF AN ESTIMATED 500,000 PERSONS FOR 12 MONTHS. WE PLAN TO REVIEW THIS REQUEST IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL ENTITIES WHO ARE EXPECTED TO RECEIVE SIMILAR REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM GSDR.
- 2. THERE CONTINUES TO BE A CONSENSUS AMONG UNDP AND UNCLASSIFIED

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OTHER EMBASSY REPS HERE THAT THE GSDR ESTIMATE OF TOTAL NUMBER OF DISPLACED PERSONS IS HIGH. THE UNHOR TEAM WHICH HAS BEEN IN SOMALIA TO ASSESS SITUATION ESTIMATES NUMBER TO BE NEARER 150,000. A HIGH LEVEL SOMALI POLICE OFFICIAL MADE A SIMILAR ESTIMATE TO THE ITALIAN CHARGE. WE ARE ALSO IN AGREEMENT THAT THERE ARE SUFFICIENT FOOD STOCKS ON HAND FOR SOME MONTHS EVEN AT HIGHER ESTIMATE

WITH EXCEPTION OF DATES, SUGAR, TEA AND BISCUITS. WE ALSO AGREE THAT WITH END OF HOSTILITIES, THAT THERE IS PROBABLY SUFFICIENT TRANSPORT TO MEET MAJOR TRANSPORT AND DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS PROVIDED IT IS REASONABLY WELL ORGANIZED. MAIN AREAS OF NEED APPEAR TO BE TENTS TO SERVE AS STORAGE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTERS, WATER TANKS FOR STORAGE AND TRANSPORT OF WATER, BLANKETS, CLOTH, UTENSILS, MEDICINE AND SOME BASIC MEDICAL SUPPLIES. THERE WILL BE A SUBSTANTIAL LOCAL COST COMPONENT TO FINANCE EXPENSES FOR TRANSPORT AND DISTRIBUTION SERVICES.

3. WE ARE ADVISED THAT UNHCR IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER PROVIDING MOST OF NEEDS, OTHER THAN FOOD FOR THE DISPLACED PERSONS PROGRAM WHICH GSDR CANNOT PROVIDE FROM ITS OWN RESOURCES. TO DO SO, HOWEVER, UNHCR WOULD HAVE TO OBTAIN THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM DONOR COUNTRIES AS ITS CURRENT PROGRAM IS FULLY COMMITTED. RATHER THAN PRO-VIDING CASH GRANTS, DONORS COULD ALSO CONTRIBUTE SUPPLIES AND COMMODITIES IN KIND. AS FAR AS U.S. PARTICIPATION IS CONCERNED, WE RECOMMEND THAT WE PROVIDE DIRECT FINANCIAL GRANT FOR UNHCR TO ADMINISTER. U.S. ASSISTANCE COULD BE AS MUCH AS THIRTY PERCENT OF TOTAL EXTERNAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENT WHICH UNHCR HAS ROUGHLY ESTIMATED TO BE 5.0 MILLION. OUR CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE CONTINGENT ON MORE DETAILED COST ANALYSIS BY UNHCR, REINFORCED BY OUR OWN FIRST HAND OBSERVATIONS. UNHCR HAS ALSO INDICATED THEY UNCLASSIFIED

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WERE PREPARED TO PROVIDE PERSONNEL THROUGH LEAGUE OF INTERNAL RED CROSS TO ASSIST GSDR IN PLANNING AND MANAGING DISPLACED PERSONS PROGRAM. DISCUSSIONS COVERING OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER DONORS FOLLOWS BY SEPTEL. LOUGHRAN

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